

Message Text

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51

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

ACDA-19 IO-14 NEA-10 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 EURE-00

DRC-01 /132 W

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FM AMEMBASSY VIENNA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 168

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

DOD WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENNA 8565

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV PBOR AU

SUBJ: OVERFLIGHTS OF AUSTRIA BY US AIRCRAFT

REF: VIENNA 8448

1. COMMUNIST PAPER VOLKSSTIMME OF OCT 17 FRONT PAGED OVER HEADLINES "US AIRCRAFT OVER AUSTRIA; NEUTRALITY CONTINUALLY VIOLATED; GOVERNMENT GIVES APPEARANCE OF IGNORANCE; POPULATION ENDANGERED" LENGTHY ARTICLE ALLEGEDLY BASED ON "OFFICIAL SOURCES" THAT 48 US MILITARY AIRCRAFT FROM WEST GERMANY AND EN ROUTE TO ISRAEL HAD VIOLATED AUSTRIAN AIR SPACE IN LAST DAYS AND THAT MORE US FLIGHTS OVER AUSTRIAN TERRITORY WERE FORESEEN. ARTICLE DEMANDS ENERGETIC ACTION BY GOA TO PROTEST ALLEGED VIOLATIONS AND TO TAKE STEPS TO PRECLUDE ALL RPT ALL US MILITARY FLIGHTS OVER AUSTRIA.

2. INDEPENDENT PAPER DIE PRESSE CARRIED FEATURE STORY ON AUSTRIAN AIR SPACE UNDER HEADLINE : "VIENNA: NO OPEN SKIES; US AIRLIFT OF SUPPLIES FOR ISRAEL OVER AZORES AND MEDITERRANEAN". ARTICLE NOTED RUMORS ON ALLEGED OVERFLIGHT OF YUGOSLAVIA BY
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AMERICAN MILITARY AIRCRAFT AND SAID THAT LOGICALLY ONE MUST

ASK IN WHAT DIRECTION THESE AIRCRAFT WERE ENTERING
YUGOSLAVIA.

3. DIE PRESSE QUERIED FOREIGN MINISTER KIRCHSCHLAEGER OCT 16
ON REPORTS OF OVERFLIGHTS AND WAS TOLD THAT "AUSTRIA HAS NOT
RECEIVED REQUEST FROM EITHER ONE SIDE OR OTHER FOR PERMISSION
FOR MILITARY AIRCRAFT TRANSPORTING EQUIPMENT TO OVERFLY
AUSTRIA". ACCORDING TO DIE PRESSE, THIS REPORT CONFIRMED
REPORT FROM MINISTRY OF DEFENSE THAT "THERE HAVE BEEN UNTIL
NOW NEITHER LEGAL NOR ILLEGAL OVERFLIGHTS OF AUSTRIA OF MIL-
ITARY AIRCRAFT TRANSPORTING EQUIPMENT EN ROUTE TO NEAR EAST".

4. KIRCHSCHLAEGER WAS FURTHER QUOTED THAT HE WAS INCLINED
TO ASSUME THAT AUSTRIA WOULD REPLY IN NEGATIVE IF PER-
MISSION REQUESTED FOR OVERFLIGHT OF MILITARY AIRCRAFT TRANSPORT-
ING EQUIPMENT. HE SAID GRANTING OF PERMISSION IN SUCH CASE
WAS IMPOSSIBLE BECAUSE OF AUSTRIA'S STATUS AS NEUTRAL.

5. COMMENT: COMMUNIST VOLKSSTIMME ARTICLE IS PART OF PERIODIC
SOVIET-LOCAL COMMUNIST CAMPAIGN TO BELABOR GOA TO TAKE
ACTION AGAINST EXISTING USG-GOA MILITARY OVERFLIGHT ARRANGE-
MENTS. GOA CONTINUES TO GRANT OVERFLIGHT CLEARANCE FOR USAF
AIRCRAFT ENGAGED IN HUMANITARIAN, MEDICAL OR VIP TRAVEL.
FIFTY-EIGHT FLIGHTS WERE CLEARED SINCE OCT 1. TOTAL FOR 1973
WILL PROBABLY RACH ABOUT 1160. WE HAVE ON APPROPRIATE
OCCASIONS REASSURED GOA THAT WE ARE STRICTLY OBSERVING
TERMS OF OVERFLIGHT AGREEMENT.

6. WE ARE USING KIRCHSCHLAEGER COMMENT, PARA 3 ABOVE, AS PRESS
GUIDANCE IN RESPONSE QUERIES RE YESTERDAY PRESS STORIES ON
OVERFLIGHTS OF AUSTRIA.HUMES

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